

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-1

NEW YORK TIMES  
2 MAY 1979

## Bush, With a Promise Of 'Candor,' Declares His G.O.P. Candidacy

By ADAM CLYMER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 1 — George Bush, former Director of Central Intelligence, announced his candidacy for the Presidency today as a "lifelong Republican" and pledged to support military strength, limited Federal spending and "a new candor."

Mr. Bush, whose support has come mainly from the party's moderates, although few of his stands dismay Republican conservatives, immediately set off on a campaign swing of states that have early primaries.

At a luncheon in Hartford he won cheers when he recalled the service of his father, Prescott Bush, as a Connecticut Senator, and when he said, "I'm tired of apologizing for this country. We are the fairest, we're the most decent, we've been the most generous, and we should hold up our heads."

### Strives for Excitement

Promising the country "the principled, stable leadership we must have in the decade of the eighties," Mr. Bush sought in his announcement here and at his later campaign stops to introduce a note of excitement. That element has thus far largely failed to accompany a careful campaign effort that has raised money, assembled a varied and experienced campaign staff and won important party allies in some critical early states, such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Mr. Bush is widely regarded as in competition with Howard H. Baker Jr., the Senate minority leader, for the allegiance of their party's weaker moderate wing. But, while his earlier start has won him more prominent supporters than the late-starting Tennessean, it has not yet,

in a period when the nonpoliticians are scarcely noticing Presidential politics, gained him much in the way of public recognition and support.

Although he has occasionally angered conservatives, by voting for open housing in the House of Representatives in 1968, for example, or by aiding party reformers while serving as Republican national chairman from 1973 to 1974, Mr. Bush hews a conservative line on issues from the Panama Canal to a strategic arms treaty and on to Federal funding of abortions.

### Sees Reagan Leading Race

He declined, at a news conference here, to criticize either Ronald Reagan, the former California Governor, who he agreed was leading the race for the 1980 Republican nomination, or his fellow Houston resident, John B. Connally, whose own campaign, in a mirror image of Mr. Bush's, had been longer on excitement than organization.

But he did emphasize some differences with the two others, who he conceded currently lead him in his home state of Texas, first by describing himself as a "lifelong Republican." That cannot be matched either by Mr. Connally, a former Democratic Governor of Texas, or by Mr. Reagan, who was a Democrat before he entered partisan politics.

"I understand this party. I worked in the precincts," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush also promised to make a complete financial disclosure, down to the number of shares he holds in various concerns, release of his tax returns and making public a balance sheet so his worth could be established. In an interview, he said that he had begun pushing for financial disclosure in the House in 1967. He estimated his current worth at \$1.3 or \$1.4 million.

### Hails Disclosure Benefits

Financial disclosure, he said, "helps lower the cynical view of attitudes towards politics." Both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Connally have resisted this sort of detailed financial disclosure in the past as an invasion of privacy.

His other major claim to a unique status in the Republican field was his breadth of experience. The field includes Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut; Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota; Benjamin Fernandez, a Los Angeles businessman; Senator Robert Dale of Kansas, and Representatives Philip M. Crane and John B. Anderson of Illinois.

Mr. Bush cited his understanding of the free enterprise system, which he said had been developed when he founded and ran his own business, in oil drilling and equipment.

He entered the oil business in Texas in 1948, moving there after graduating from Yale, where he had captained the baseball team, been president of his class and been a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the

academic fraternity, and of Skull and Bones, the prestigious secret society. Before entering Yale, he had been a Navy fighter pilot, winning the Distinguished Flying Cross after being shot down near the Bonin Islands in the Western Pacific.

Mr. Bush also said "being in Congress, not too long, incidentally, is an asset." He served from 1967 to 1971, giving up the seat for an unsuccessful race for the Senate in 1970. He also lost a Senate bid in 1964.

He contended, "My practical experience in foreign affairs and national security would qualify me" for the Presidency. After his Senate defeat, he was the United States representative to the United Nations until 1974, then Republican chairman until 1974, trying to hold the party together as the Watergate scandal engulfed it.

President Ford named him to head the United States liaison office in Peking in September 1974, and early in 1976 brought him back to head the C.I.A.

That last experience is one the 54-year-old Mr. Bush cites effectively as he campaigns. In a recent, well-received tour of Iowa, he stressed, "I've dealt with some of the world's leaders," and argued, "We've got to get off the back of the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. and strengthen these institutions."

Asked today in Hartford about C.I.A. assassination attempts, he cited the possibility of having assassinated Adolf Hitler to show that such an act might sometimes be justified.

### Firmness in Foreign Policy

On the campaign trail, Mr. Bush, like other Republicans, argues hard for firmness in foreign policy. In Dallas Center, Iowa, he said that while "I don't believe in rattling sabers... if we are undependable, we are vacillating, we pull back, it doesn't take long for the rest of the world" to take advantage.

That Iowa visit also demonstrated one of Mr. Bush's problems. Many of his Iowa backers indicated that their first choice would be to have Gov. Robert D. Ray run as a favorite son. In New Hampshire, some of his prominent supporters would really prefer Elliot L. Richardson, the former Cabinet officer, and in many parts of the country, he is the second choice of adherents of former President Ford.

In his news conference today, Mr. Bush said he could not yet identify the areas where he wanted Federal spending checked, although he called for a growth in defense spending. He contended that excessive government regulation added greatly to inflation.

Mr. Bush also supported compulsory registration of young men, but not necessarily a renewed draft, and said he opposed letting Federal funds be used to pay for abortions.

"Leadership in the eighties," he proclaimed, "must be based on a politics of substance, not symbols, of reason, not bombast, of frankness, not false promise."